

Augustan Lovers

29 January 2013

Module content

This module surveys the history and background of the genre of Roman love elegy. A selection of authors of Roman love elegy will be studied in depth; authors may include Propertius, Tibullus and Ovid, but the module may also include significant emphasis on text to which Roman love elegy refers and responds, such as Hellenistic epigram.

Emphasis is placed on the successive developement of Roman love elegy and the relationship of these genres to the contemporary, literary and historical-political landscapes of the ancient world.

Overarching themes of the course include inter- and intratextuality (e.g. book structure) as well as poetological issues. The module also affords students an opportunity to explore critically the relationship between poetry, power and patronage, and attitudes to gender and sex as conveyed through the studied texts.

Aims & Outcomes

AIM(S)

To enable students

- to enable students to explore critically a range of texts relating to the genre of Roman love elegy individually and within a peer group;
- to establish the literary, social, and historical contexts of the ancient world to which the genre of Roman love elegy both refers and responds.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module students should be able to:

- demonstrate a coherent and detailed knowledge of the genre of Roman love elegy and of individual texts in particular;
- display a thorough knowledge of the literary, historical and socio-cultural contexts of Roman love elegy generally and individual texts in particular;
- systematically present their own theoretically and critically informed close textual analyses of texts within the genre of Roman love elegy;
- demonstrate the ability to take independent responsibility for planning and executing work, whether individually or as part of a team, and demonstrate the ability and skills to evaluate and reflect on one's performance

Emphasis?

- What is the emphasis of the module description so far?
- Overview and in-depth knowledge: you will need to know both the elegiac texts and scholarship on elegy in detail
- Critical attitude: you are expected to actively use both theory and a questioning reading of the primary sources to put them in context and make your own interpretation

Marking Criteria

- Remember to relate the learning outcomes – what we quiz you on! – to the marking criteria
- Marking criteria for essays at Level 6 are enclosed at the back of the module syllabus
- Marking criteria for the presentation will be added to the Moodle site shortly

Books to buy

Texts

- Lee, G. (1999) *Propertius. The Poems*, Oxford (Oxford World Classics Series).
- Lee, G. (1990) *Tibullus. Elegies*, Liverpool.
- Melville, A. (2008) *Ovid. The Love Poems*, Oxford (Oxford World Classics Series).

Handbooks

- Armstrong R (2005) *Ovid and His Love Poetry*, London (Classical Literature and Society Series)
- Keith, A. (2008) *Propertius. Poet of Love and Leisure*, London (Classical Literature and Society Series).

Reading and next week's seminar

- To complete this module successfully, you must know the poems well enough to make connections between them independently
- To kick-start this, next week's seminar will require each of you to prepare one poem of Propertius Book 1, present its contents briefly to the group, and to discuss how it links in with other poems in the same book.
 - This task requires both primary and secondary reading!

Preparation for lectures

	Title	Content
1	L: Module introduction	
2	L: Falling in Love With Elegy	Catullus, Gallus, and Propertius 1 [Prop. 1.1; 5; 9]
3	L: The Beloved – Socio-historical backgrounds	Prop. 1.2; 8; 11; 14; 15; 2.4
4	L: Womanufacture 1	Prop. 2.1; 5; 3.1
5	L: Womanufacture 2	Ov. Am. 1.1; 5
6	L: The Poet Lover	Ov. Am. 1.1-5; 3.1; 15; Prop. 2.1; 3; 5
7	L: The Elegiac Relationship – Foedus Aeternum	Prop. 1.9; 12; 19; Tib. 1.5; 6
8	L: The Elegiac Relationship – Paraklausithyra	Prop. 1.16; Ov. Am. 1.6; 2.2; Tib. 1.2;

- The module syllabus lists the reading you must prepare prior to class
- You should already have considered possible interpretations and backgrounds to the texts before hearing the lecture

Follow-up reading

- The module syllabus has a brief bibliography of recommended reading – use it, but above all...
- ...use the follow-up reading linked on Moodle, both before and after the lectures
- Without active use of this material, you will have difficulty meeting the learning outcomes of the module

Structure

- This 20-credit module has 30 contact hours, inclusive of 4 seminars and 2 revision classes. Attendance is compulsory for ALL lectures, workshops and seminars. If you cannot make a class because of illness or other good reason, you need to inform me (m.ohrman@tsd.ac.uk) and your personal tutor about this.
- Lectures and workshops take place on Tuesdays 11.15 am (LR 11); Wednesdays 12.15 (LR 10) and Thursdays 10.15 (LR 18).

Seminars

Group	Day	Time	Place
Group 1	Tuesdays	5.15 pm	LR 11
Group 2	Fridays	4.15 pm	LR 9

Assessment

- This module is assessed through 100% coursework, equally split between
 - One 2,500 word essay
 - One 20-minute oral presentation
- The deadline for the essay is 5 March
- The presentations will take place in the exam period

Essay titles

What happens to your essay?

- First-marking: I mark your essay and prepare your feedback – one essay usually takes about an hour
- Moderation – another Classics lecturer moderates a sample of essays (all fails, all firsts, and at least one paper from each mark category)
- Essays are returned through Moodle
- At the end of the year, a sample of papers is also seen by our external examiner to make sure that your marks are consistent with marks given at other institutions
- ...this is why we allow four working weeks to turn your papers around

- *Foedus aeternum*: providing relevant examples, analyse critically the ideal of eternal love in Propertius.
- Origins: examine critically the suggestion that Roman love elegy derives, in part, from Roman comedy.
- *Wom manufacture*: examine critically the use and application of this term in scholarship on Roman elegy. Exemplify your statements with references to specific elegies.
- *The Genre*: giving relevant, in-depth examples analyse critically the effects of references to other literary genres in Propertius and Ovid's *Amores*.

Titles

- For the presentations, you should agree your precise topic with me but it must be within one of the following four areas
- A moodle forum will be set up for this purpose
- You should agree your title no later than 12 March
- Roderic Bowen Library and Archives: The understanding of Roman love elegy as shown in 17-18th century editions and translations.
- Close reading: Interpretation of a chosen elegy.
- Context: Critical evaluation of elegiac engagement with the temporal and historical context of Augustan Rome.
- Continuation: The *Heroides* and the *Ars amatoria* as elegy or not.

Deadlines – a reminder

- Bear in mind the changed rules for non-submissions, late submissions, extensions etc
- If in doubt, or if you need help, please speak to me or Kyle as soon as possible